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Kentucky to lead national anti-fraud task force

FRANKFORT, Ky. - Kentucky Insurance Commissioner George Nichols III has been asked to lead the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' (NAIC) Anti-fraud Task Force. Nichols has designated J. Joseph Cohen, director of the Kentucky Department of Insurance Fraud Investigation Division, to serve as chairman of the task force.

The NAIC Anti-fraud Task Force provides opportunities for national leaders in government to exchange ideas and address the various issues involving insurance fraud and uniformity of regulation. NAIC also sponsors national training for persons involved in fraud investigations. As chair, Cohen will direct the anti-fraud efforts of the NAIC, which recommends national policy to state insurance departments.

The task force is comprised of five working groups that specifically address the areas of external fraud; database issues; federal and state coordination; unauthorized entities; and training. As chair, Cohen will coordinate these five working groups to address issues on behalf of the national association.

Cohen was appointed director of the Kentucky Department of Insurance Fraud Investigation Division in 1996. Prior to joining the department, he served in various law enforcement-related positions including as fraud lead attorney for Kentucky Department of Workers' Claims. He is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association and an active member of the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, also serving on its national task force charged to create guidelines for state fraud regulations.